

Colby Library Quarterly



March 1975

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Colby Library Quarterly

Series I

March 1945

Number 10

LETTERS FROM WILLIAM JAMES TO THÉODULE A. RIBOT

BY JULIUS SEELYE BIXLER

THROUGH the kind permission of Mr. Henry James the following letters from his father, William James, to the French psychologist Théodule A. Ribot are published here for the first time. Readers of this *Quarterly* may be interested to learn how these letters came to light and how they happened to arrive in the Colby College Library.

Back in 1926 a rumor reached me that Ribot's library along with some letters from William James had been sold to the university at Louvain, as part of the "restoration" of its library after the first world war, by a French bookseller and publisher named Champion. I visited M. Champion in Paris in 1928 and confirmed the fact of the sale. A trip to Louvain in December of that year failed, however, to unearth the letters. I discovered two presentation copies of books autographed by James for Ribot, but of the letters there was no sign. Correspondence later carried on with the library authorities produced no results. Finally, in 1936, I appealed to Mr. Henry James, eldest son of William James. Members of the Colby Library Associates will recall that on April 15, 1943, one hundred years to a day after the birth of his celebrated uncle and namesake the novelist, Mr. Henry James lectured at Colby on the significance of his uncle's work.

The appeal to Mr. James did not fall on deaf ears. He at once put me in touch with the Honorable Dave Hennen

Morris, at that time Ambassador to Belgium. Mr. Morris's name is also of interest to Colby readers as he was Commencement speaker at our exercises on August 22, 1943, and received the degree of LL.D. from Colby at that time, only a few months before his death. Mr. Morris interceded with the authorities at Louvain and a few days before Mrs. Bixler and I sailed for Europe word came from the Louvain library that the letters were there and would be made available for us. We transcribed them on a hot afternoon in August 1936 and later deposited copies in the Colby Library, along with a collection of letters from various members of the James family. Another set of transcripts has been placed in the Widener Library at Harvard. The original letters were presumably lost in the second destruction of the Louvain library by the Germans in 1940.

So far as I am aware, these letters furnish the only evidence we have that the name of the French psychologist Théodule A. Ribot should be included among the hundreds of scientists and men of letters with whom William James corresponded. No communications to Ribot are to be found in the published *Letters of William James*, and Professor Ralph Barton Perry's monumental *Thought and Character of William James*, which prints so much correspondence, mentions Ribot only once and then in a letter from Professor Joseph R. L. Delboeuf. Writing from Liège on December 19, 1882, Delboeuf, the Belgian psychophysicist and philologist, remarks: "M. Ribot says that you ought to go to the Salpêtrière." Ribot is mentioned again in the same letter but not in relation to James's ideas or plans.

We know that James was well acquainted with Ribot's work. In the *Principles of Psychology* he refers to him in three different contexts: (1) where he discusses vitality as the basis of personality, (2) where he quotes Ribot as saying that muscular adjustment is the basis of attention, and (3) where he cites him on the "foreshortening process" that is necessary if we are to recall in memory events that occurred some time ago. In the *Varieties of Religious Experience* he

quotes Ribot twice, once on the subject of "anhedonia" or the pathological lack of interest and enthusiasm shown by some patients, once on the fact that in the natural course of events religion tends to evaporate and to turn into religious philosophy.

Ribot was the founder and first editor of the *Revue Philosophique*. As an experimental psychologist he tended to play up the physical factors in mental life. In 1885 he gave a course of lectures on "Experimental Psychology" at the Sorbonne and in 1888 he was made professor of that subject at the College of France. Both appointments are indicated in the letters.

At the time of this correspondence James was busily engaged in turning out article after article on psychological subjects and, toward the end of the period, in combining them to form the *Principles of Psychology* which appeared in 1890. The first two letters bring out the interesting item of information that James offered his article on "The Perception of Space" to Ribot for publication in the *Revue Philosophique* and that it was apparently accepted.

My dear Monsieur Ribot,

Cambr. Feb. 26, 1884

It was as agreeable as it was unexpected to receive your letter. And such words of praise from so good a judge are very flattering. I feel however as if you didn't do quite justice to Ward, whose 2nd article seems to me full of original and important considerations. The way you keep your journal going astonishes me more and more. Apparently you have more writers to draw upon than they have in England.

As for my Psychology bad eyes and nerves, and lots of other work, keep it at a complete standstill, so that I am ashamed I ever spoke of it. It advances somewhat in my head, but nowhere else. I am curious to know what you will think of a speculation on the physiology of the emotions which I shall have in the April *Mind*. You ask for a chapter to translate. I am much obliged for the honour. I have now a chapter all but finished which I should be glad to see translated or published in any way in advance of the (only possible) book. It is on the *perception of space* and would probably take up 60-70 of your pages, perhaps even a few more. It is thoroughly empirical, has a good many new points, and having worked over it a great deal, it seems to me the best thing I have so far written. If you think the translation of so long a

156 Colby Library Quarterly

bit a *possible* enterprise, I shall be happy to send you the MS. to make a definitive judgment on.

I think I wrote last summer to thank you for your *Maladies de la Volonté*. I'm glad you've begun to apply your method to the ego and personality. I daren't hope however that you'll leave no mystery behind, in that most impossible of all subjects.

Yours always,

WM. JAMES.

Otsego Lake, N. Y.

June 29, '84.

My dear Moniseur Ribot

I received your letter a couple of weeks ago and felt much flattered at your willingness to accept my long lucubration on Space. I had to wait many days before looking it over, because I was in the agony of winding up my University work for the year, (examinations, faculty meetings etc.) and of getting ready to move off into the country, for the vacation. The latter feat is just performed; but when, on the eve of it, I took out my unfinished manuscript to see if it was in a fit state for the honour of a french translation *I feared to send it*. That is, I feared to let the first part go until I was sure of the termination. The number of pages lacking is not great but their content is important, and I will not risk the beginning till the end is sure. I expect to finish the thing in the autumn; and if it turns out well, I will without fail transmit it. The appetite of your countrymen for foreign things is wonderful and admirable.

I have read M. Binet's two articles with interest and admiration, and verified the *dédoublement* of an illusion by a mirror in one hypnotic subject; I hope his theory will bear all tests, for it brings a great simplification to the physiology of perception. I did not think so much of his former paper on localization in the *Revue*. How well he writes too! Is he a frenchman or a swiss?

I feel somewhat disappointed with Sully's Psychology!—a certain colorlessness, arising I think from a too strong desire to be safe, and not speculative. I wish you joy of your holiday in Spain. I should think midsummer was hardly the best season for enjoying that shadeless country, except on the principles laid down by Théophile Gautier. I am in a cooler region. Hoping that you will return refreshed and valiant, I am always sincerely yours,

WM. JAMES.

My dear Monsieur Ribot,

Cambridge Sept. 7 '85.

I take the liberty of introducing to you hereby my friend Mr. Benjamin I. Gilman of New York, who is spending the next few months in

Paris pursuing psychological studies, and will be exceedingly grateful to you if you can give him a little information and advice as to how he may best profit by the *psychological resources* of Paris. I should not take this liberty were not Mr. Gilman a gentleman of superior character and attainments. He has been studying with me,—I will not say under me—for the past two years.

Hoping that this will find you well and not overwhelmed with the abundance of your labors, I am always faithfully yours,

WM. JAMES.

Dear Monsieur Ribot,

Cambridge, Oct. 28, '85.

Your announcement fills me with delight, first for the *cause*, second that the Ministry should have been intelligent enough to pick you out as the new professor. I hope, however, that it will not interfere with your editorial duties in the *Revue*. No professorship can begin to be as important as that place. And it could hardly have been possible that any professor could have done as much good to philosophy in France as you have done by founding and editing so well that review.

I thank you for what you say of my theory of emotions. I am *very* sorry we are not yet to have your book on attention. However, perhaps it will be all the better for being delayed.

Pray receive my cordial felicitations and prayers for health and strength to do your double work.

Always faithfully yours,

WM. JAMES.

In spite of the offer and the acceptance of the article on "The Perception of Space," it was finally published, not in Ribot's *Revue*, but in four instalments in the British journal *Mind* for 1887. What caused the change in plan we do not know. In a letter from James written from Jaffrey, New Hampshire, September 12, 1886, to G. Croom Robertson, Editor of *Mind*, we find this passage: "... your very flattering request about *Mind* quite tunes me up again. ... Of already written things I have a long-finished paper on space-perception, clinging closely to the experimental facts and being of course the last word of human wisdom in the matter. But it might fill eighty of your pages, and I can't advise you to take it, unless you are really hard up for matter.

158 Colby Library Quarterly

It certainly is as dull as the dullerest thing you can possibly have printed of late." (R. B. Perry, *op. cit.*, vol. 1, p. 604.) Then on February 6, 1887, from Cambridge, James wrote to Professor Carl Stumpf in Berlin: "I found to my surprise and pleasure that Robertson was willing to print my chapter on Space in *Mind* even though it should run through all four numbers of the year. So I sent it to him. Most of it was written six or even seven years ago." (*Ibid.* vol. 2, p. 69.) After appearing in *Mind* the article was reprinted with some changes as Chapter XX of the *Principles of Psychology*.

Dear Professor Ribot

Cambridge April 22, '88.

I should ere now have written to extend you my hearty congratulations on your appointment, which is a piece of good fortune, not only for yourself, but for the *cause*. The details you gave me of the "politics" of the election were very interesting. Things are tamer here, *quand il s'agit* of a scientific place. Party spirit runs less high.

I hope you won't be overworked with these duties added to your editorship. Can't you drop some of the latter work? The *Revue* never seemed to me so good as now—so much empirical matter in it. And how that sort of matter is lacking in *Mind*! Certainly *at this moment* France is doing more for psychology than any other country. Wundt's school breaks no new ground, as such articles as Binet's and Pierre Janet's have done.

I am ashamed to say that I know your articles on Attention only through the resumé of one of my students. I have been postponing the reading of them till next winter, when I shall have to revise a chapter of my own on attention, written last year.

Wishing you the greatest success and happiness in your new position, I am as always

faithfully yours,

WM. JAMES

The most interesting letter in the collection is the next one, dated May 13, 1888. The last sentence of the first paragraph throws light on the way James's mind was working on the problem of the self. It was not until 1904 that he published his famous paper "Does Consciousness Exist" with its view of consciousness as a relation rather than an entity in its own right. In the *Principles of Psychology* he pre-

pared the way for this in his identification of the "thinker" with the "passing thought." The second paragraph of the letter here printed is impressive in its warning against a neglect of metaphysics. James prided himself on being as eager to base his philosophy on experience as the best of the empiricists. But in this paragraph he makes it clear that he has no sympathy with positivism or the reliance on sense experience to the exclusion of metaphysics. The definition here given as "the search for clearness" deserves to stand beside his other and often quoted characterization of metaphysics as "an extraordinarily stubborn attempt to think things through consistently."

Dear Monsieur Ribot

Cambridge May 13 '88.

I receive this morning the *Revue Scientifique* with your very interesting leçon d'ouverture—a delicate and difficult task very nicely executed indeed. Of your flattering mention of my humble name, I am of course very proud. My Psychology, to which you give such publicity in advance, still lags behind. It is one thing to write chapters, another to write a book, on a subject of which the first principles are as yet undetermined. My mind is in more of a chaos than ever, what with automatic writing, multiple personality, "sommeil à distance", and "veridical phantasms"! I disbelieve in the existence of "ideas" in the Lockian sense; I have come almost to disbelieve in states of consciousness in any sense; I have for many a long year harbored an animosity to the "ego"; the "soul of the world" I can "take no stock in"; yet experience is cognitive—but who, what, or where the vehicle of cognition is, transcends my powers!

One thing! Empirical facts without "metaphysics" will always make a confusion and a muddle. I'm sorry to hear you still disparage metaphysics so much, since rightly understood, the word means only the search for *clearness* where common people do not even suspect that there is any lack of it. The ordinary positivist has simply a bad and muddled metaphysics which he refuses to criticize or discuss.

Stanley Hall has been made president of a new University founded with a capital of several millions by a business man named Clark in Worcester near Boston. Mr. Clark would have done more wisely to give his money to some of the preexisting institutions. But Hall and the trustees will try to give to the new institution a special character, not duplicated at Harvard or the other New England colleges. What it will be, I do not know. I'm afraid that the psychophysical laboratory at the Johns Hopkins University will grow lazy after Hall's departure,

160 Colby Library Quarterny

and that he will not have leisure at Worcester to carry on experimental research.

That you may enjoy your professorial duties, and exert the influence you so richly deserve to, is the ardent wish of yours most cordially,

WM. JAMES.

34, De Vere Gardens, W.

London, Aug. 12 [1889]

My dear Monsieur Ribot,

On the eve of my departure for America, I can not help writing you a word of farewell, and saying how successful I think the Congress to have been. The chief thing of course was the sociability, the [opportunity to] make the acquaint[ance] of so many first rate men. I am only sorry it was so short, and that I could really talk with so few. Apart from M. Richet, the french psychologists with whom I had most to do were Marillier, Gley, and Pierre Janet. From all of them great things are to be hoped, it seems to me. I had no talk with Binet, nor with several others whom I should have been glad to see in a more intimate way. No matter! I go home quite "set up" as a psychologist and shall finish my everlasting text book on that subject with infinitely more interest and zeal after finding myself in presence of this large number of persons to whom the subject is a reality.

The great pity of the Congress was that you were not there!

Cordially yours,

WM. JAMES.

[P.S.] Of course this needs no *reply*.

95 Irving Street
Cambridge, Mass.

Jan. 22, 1892

Dear Monsieur Ribot,

Thanks for your very considerate letter of the 10th. Pray do not on my account feel any chagrin about Marillier's delay. The poor fellow is doubtless overburdened (as we all are) for his strength, and I am only too happy to have so solid a review as he will probably make, at any date.

You speak of *Mind*. I doubt whether its character will be much changed by Robertson's defection. The *Revue Philosophique* remains at the head! The new American *Philosophic Review* has a good editor, and will, I trust, develop into an important Journal. There is a great fermentation commencing in this country in the line of philosophy and the higher education generally, and it is hard to say where it will end.—The strange thing to see is the almost entire cessation of psychological study in England.

With best wishes for the New Year, I am very sincerely yours

WM. JAMES.

Colby Library Quarterly 161

You will ere this have received the abridgement of my Psychology which M. Boirac (?) is, I believe, engaged already in translating for the french public.

Albergo primavera, Rome, Jan. 31, 1901.

Pray pardon the post-card, forced on me by medical precaution!—Your kind letter of Dec. 25th, forwarded to me here, touches me by its assumption that I have the right to expect you to present me with a copy of everything you publish. You have already sent me far more than I ever can make return for, and I rejoice to see what wider and wider ground you keep settling upon and cultivating. This last volume awaits in Cambridge my return home in July.—I have had a very bad year with heart, aorta, and acute neurasthenia, but expect to get into some moderate working condition again. Progress is exceedingly slow, but I am writing some lectures for Edinburgh on the "Varieties of religious experience" quite on your method, using biographic documents as much as possible.—Thanks and regards!

WM. JAMES.

Cambridge, Oct. 16, 1904

I have again to thank you for a volume—the *Logiques des Sentiments*, just arrived! Its publication is opportune for us, in consequence of the discussions already raging over the "humanistic" or "pragmatistic" philosophy. I expect to read it with great interest.

WM. JAMES.

This card seems to have ended the twenty-years' correspondence. James went to Oxford in 1908 to deliver the Hibbert Lectures—afterward published as *A Pluralistic Universe*. He visited England again in the spring and summer of 1910, but with no convenient opportunity for a meeting with Théodule Ribot. James reached Chocorua, New Hampshire, on August 19, 1910, and died there on the twenty-sixth of August.



LETTERS OF JEREMIAH CHAPLIN
in the Colby College Library

BY MARY D. HERRICK

THE recent gift from Dr. Matthew Mellon, of Villa Nova, Pennsylvania, of an original autograph letter by the Reverend Jeremiah Chaplin has brought to fourteen the total number of holograph letters which we possess from the founder and first president of Colby College. These letters are supplemented by transcripts of eight others, which, with the originals, extend over a period of nineteen years—from 1819 to 1838.

Jeremiah Chaplin was born in Rowley, Massachusetts, in 1776. He became a member of the Baptist Church at the age of eleven, and his interest in religion was approached in ardor only by his belief in the value of education. Shortly after graduating from Brown University he came to Waterville in 1818 to found a "literary and theological institute." He remained to see it (by act of the Legislature of Maine, February 5, 1821) become a college, and he was inaugurated as its first president in 1822. In writing of a young man who was in need of financial assistance at the college Dr. Chaplin said:

"I am sensible that education alone will never make a minister of the Gospel. . . . But a good education . . . is of more importance than some are willing to allow. It is a great mistake to suppose that a minister of the Gospel can have too much knowledge, when the Bible assures us that his business is to 'feed the people of God with knowledge and understanding'. A knowledge of *history* will assist him greatly in explaining the prophecies. Besides, there are many things in the Scriptures which cannot be satisfactorily explained without an acquaintance with those *languages* in which the Scripture was originally written; and with the manners and customs of the eastern nations. Nor is this all. A good education will enable a preacher to express

himself more intelligibly and agreeably, and to arrange his thoughts, much better than illiterate preachers generally do. I will add—a good education gives a preacher a weight of character and influence in society which unlearned preachers seldom possess.”¹

Many of these letters are concerned with routine matters at the College. The ever pressing problem of finance is usually paramount, and we can see the President struggling in his three-fold role of minister, scholar, and leader of what (in a letter to Nathaniel Williams, May 12, 1823) he called “begging excursions” for college funds. In a letter to Otis Briggs, Secretary of the Trustees, on June 25, 1829, he inquires if there is any hope of obtaining funds to pay the officers of the College who are greatly embarrassed by the arrears in their salaries. His own salary at that time was unpaid for over a year. When affairs went badly the President struggled, and when rare periods of spiritual or financial prosperity occurred he worried lest his ardor be relaxed. On May 8, 1822, he wrote to the Rev. Nathaniel Williams: “We are going on prosperously at present. . . . If the Lord continues to bless us, we shall do something, I trust, for the advancement of his glory in this part of our country. Pray for me, my Brother, that I may not be improperly elated with any prosperity with which the Lord has been pleased to favor me. Pray that I may feel a deep sense continually of my unworthiness to be employed by the Lord as an instrument for the advancement of his glory and that I may ever realize that all my sufficiency is of him.”

Two of the letters in this collection are of particular historical interest to Colby. The first is an official confirmation, dated August 28, 1828, to Robert E. Pattison of his appointment to the professorship of mathematics in 1828. Robert Pattison was also a minister and shared with Dr. Chaplin a firm conviction regarding the value of liberal

¹ Transcript copy of a letter dated November 3, 1821, probably to the Baptist Board in Beverley, Massachusetts.

arts training in his profession. He had graduated from Amherst in 1826 and was a tutor at Columbian College before coming to Waterville. He left Colby in 1829 to resume preaching but was recalled in 1836 to become the third president of the college. He is the only man who ever served in that office for two separate terms, — 1836-1839 and 1854-1857. Dr. Chaplin concluded his letter to Pattison with "May God bless you, my dear Sir, and make you a rich blessing to this Seminary and to the world."

The second letter is dated May 23, 1831. It was at this time that Henry Paine, a graduate in the Class of 1823, was considering coming to Waterville to act as principal of the Academy (later Coburn Classical Institute). One of the inducements offered Mr. Paine and the young men whom he would bring with him from his position at Monmouth Academy, was a workshop which had just been established at the college. Dr. Chaplin wrote to Mr. Paine: "With regard to the workshop, nothing very definite has yet been done in relation to the sale of the articles manufactured by the young men. It is our intention, however, to make sales of them ourselves, and allow the young men a reasonable price for their labors. We expect to make contracts abroad for furnishing homes, bedsteads, etc., to a pretty large amount. Our system is not yet matured; but I think the young men with you need be under no apprehension respecting the sale of their work, should they come to Waterville. They may rest assured that we shall do all we possibly can to render their labors profitable."

The last letter of Dr. Chaplin's owned by the Colby Library is the one recently received from Dr. Mellon. Written on March 14, 1838, five years after leaving Colby, it is addressed to the Second Baptist Society of Rowley, Massachusetts. To this Society Dr. Chaplin presented his resignation and announced his intention to accept a call to Wellington, Connecticut. It is a commentary on his genuine modesty that he wrote: "Expecting soon to reside in a state where I am but little known, I would respectfully solicit of

you such testimonials of my moral and religious character as you may feel yourselves warranted to give me."



BOOKPLATES AT COLBY

BY EDWARD F. STEVENS

IT was a most happy and complimentary recognition of Colby's Book Arts Collection, that Mrs. Frank Cowdery of Albany should greatly enrich the Library's treasures by the bestowal of her collection of bookplates. "Ex Libris" form an aspect of the Arts of the Book of special artistic and personal significance, for the bookplate associates the book with its owner in an intimate relationship. Mrs. Cowdery's bookplates, approaching a thousand examples in number, are recognized not only as an extensive but also as a discriminating collection, in which selective quality, even more than numbers, is apparent.

An historical study of the origin and growth of the book-owner's label would be an interesting story into which this brief paper may not venture, beyond alluding to early examples of family crests and escutcheons identifying the books pertaining to ancestral houses, remaining undisturbed for generations. The heraldic or armorial bookplates were characteristic of the early days, and are well-represented in our new acquisition. But, perhaps closer in keeping with the Book Arts, would be the more modern expressions wherein artists of many talents have lent their genius to a minor art of great individuality.

Inasmuch as many book collections, especially with institutions, are presented or endowed as memorials, the idea of the portrait has largely prevailed, more often by photographic reproduction. Such *carte de visite* photographs have unique character, but the repetition in every related book detracts from the specific honor intended, somewhat as the

implied honor of historic portraiture on our postage stamps loses efficacy by becoming commonplace. Bookplates, of whatever artistic merit, bearing the names of distinguished characters have high historic interest aside from the art consideration always lending value to a collector. But it is safe to assume, with the Book Arts in mind, that the most alluring bookplates are those which give expression to an artist's genius in the restricted field of *Ex Libris*.

It is important to record that Thomas Bewick, who revived in England wood-engraving as an art, and William Blake, that brilliant literary and artistic genius, contributed to bookplate art. Mrs. Cowdery had acquired nearly a dozen of Bewick rarities, and her gift shows a fine proof of Blake's plate for "Mr. Cumberland." In America, Alexander Anderson, known as the "father of wood-engraving" in this country, contributed one of the earliest bookplates in American collections.

It is pleasing to note that Mrs. Cowdery's own plate was designed and engraved by J. Winfred Spenceley, and that her collection favors Spenceley's work, always of exquisite refinement. More than one hundred and thirty plates of his design are comprised in Mrs. Cowdery's selection. Perhaps the most widely acclaimed designer and engraver at the turn of the century was Edwin Davis French, of whose art and craft more than one hundred and seventy examples are shown. Three of his bookplates might call for particular mention as work of surpassing execution. The view of the Library of Princeton University, with the tower of the building, then newly erected, has been denoted "the most charming of university plates": the bookplate of the General Theological Seminary of New York has been designated "a magnificent specimen": while that of the Grolier Club appeals supremely to bibliophiles, since it bears a miniature reproduction of the familiar picture of "Grolier at the Printing House of Aldus," and in the margin appears the Hawthorne medallion, an original of which hangs on the wall of the Colby Librarian's office.

Artists of wider reputation have lent their inspiration to the modest bookplate, which is usually not associated with their names. Edwin A. Abbey designed a plate for Brander Matthews; Bertram G. Goodhue for the Lowell Memorial Library; George Wharton Edwards and H. Siddons Mowbray have done rare examples. Mowbray was teacher of our own Charles Hovey Pepper in his art-student days. A Mowbray bookplate has, incidentally, just come to Colby.

To mention a few worthies in the *Ex Libris* field that have their place in the front rank, we should include William Edgar Fisher, who did for Bowdoin, Class of 1882, a reminiscent design picturing class boat-races on the Androscoggin; Elisha Brown Bird, Sidney L. Smith, and W. F. Hopson, the two latter represented by some thirty plates each in our new acquisition. Among English artists one of the most conspicuous is Edmund Hort New of Oxford, many of whose designs were already in the initial Colby nucleus, having been given by Mr. New, who was the creator of the present writer's own bookplate picturing "The Dingle."

A culminating group brings together the leading Graphic Arts men of today—such lights as Frederic W. Goudy (most famous type-designer), W. A. Dwiggins (who redrew the Colby seal), Daniel Berkeley Updike (the greatest printer of his time), Bruce Rogers (who has been nominated by highest authority "the most vital force in modern typography"). It is appropriate to note that, during the earlier years of B. R.'s Boston days, he designed the classic bookplate for the Typographic Library and Museum of the American Typefounders Company (now non-existent), but his later designs have been consistent with his favorite manner, in which he made his brilliant reputation in the use of printers' ornaments from the typecases.

Colby's great good fortune in becoming the recipient of this superb enrichment of our Book Arts Collection is due to President Bixler's acquaintance with Mrs. Cowdery. She was once the roommate, at Smith College, of his aunt, now

Mrs. B. K. Emerson, of Amherst. Realizing Dr. Bixler's vision for Colby's future, it seemed to Mrs. Cowdery that a highly representative collection of Ex Libris could be more appreciatively made known in the new Miller Library at Colby than elsewhere. There the Cowdery Bookplate Collection will prove in variety and appeal not the least fascinating display setting forth the Arts of the Book.



THE SHANNON COLLECTION

LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY, last month, provided an appropriate occasion for announcing the recent gift to the Colby Library by Mr. Richard Shannon, of Waterville, of an extensive collection of papers, documents, diaries, and other material written by, or dealing with, Colonel Richard Cutts Shannon of Civil War fame. At the head of the list stands the military appointment of Shannon, signed by President Abraham Lincoln. There are two military appointments signed by Andrew Jackson, two diplomatic appointments signed by President U. S. Grant, and two diplomatic appointments signed by Benjamin Harrison.

Among Colonel Shannon's own writings, the collection includes his vivid first-hand account of his military service in the Civil War, the diary he kept while a military prisoner in Libby Prison in 1863, his journal of an official visit to Brazil in 1877, and his diary of a trip to China in 1886. Among his later compositions are his "Remarks upon being officially notified of his renomination for Congress" in 1896, and his "Reminiscences of College Life."

Finally, the Shannon Collection includes genealogical and biographical matter, photographs, some personal correspondence, and Professor E. W. Hall's Memorial Address, delivered in the Colby Chapel on June 25, 1911. The library is deeply indebted to Mr. Richard Shannon for the gift of this rich historical and literary material.

COLBY LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

This department was founded in April, 1900, with the object to supplement the resources of the Colby College Library by securing gifts and by providing facilities for the purchase of books, manuscripts, and other material which the Library could not otherwise acquire.

At present it is open to all persons, and is especially designed to receive books, manuscripts, and other material which may be offered to the library by individuals or by other libraries. It is especially designed to receive books, manuscripts, and other material which may be offered to the library by individuals or by other libraries. It is especially designed to receive books, manuscripts, and other material which may be offered to the library by individuals or by other libraries.

Members are those who have contributed to the Colby Library Association and who are entitled to the use of the library. The officers are as follows:

President, Francis A. Davis, Yale University.

Vice-President, John H. Marshall.

Secretary, Thomas Smith.

Treasurer, J. S. Johnson.

Committee on Books, Francis A. Davis, John H. Marshall, Thomas Smith, J. S. Johnson, and the Vice President.

